

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 170677
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY ARA:ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
APPROVED BY ARA:FJDEVINE
EUR/SOV:SMCCALL(DRAFT)
S/ST ARTIN
P - MR TICE

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P 212036Z JUL 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 170677

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, UY

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS

REF: HAAHR OFFICIAL-INFORMAL TO GRAHAM DATED JULY 6

1. THE BACKGROUND TO THE GARBLED INFORMATION THAT IS
CIRCULATING IN MILITARY CIRCLES IN MONTEVIDEO AND TO WHICH
YOU REFER IN YOUR REFERENCED LETTER IS AS FOLLOWS.

2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY WILLIAM LUERS CALLED IN
PEREZ CALDAS ON JUNE 22 TO FLOAT VERY INFORMALLY THE IDEA
OF A POSSIBLE URUGUAYAN-SOVIET EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS. THE
AMBASSADOR WAS TOLD THIS IDEA SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS
A US "PROPOSAL", THAT WE THOUGHT IT WOULD AFFORD URUGUAY
AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A GOOD IMPRESSION WORLDWIDE BY PRO-
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 170677

POSING SUCH AN EXCHANGE, THAT THE U.S. ROLE WOULD BE
STRICTLY THAT OF AN INTERMEDIARY, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO
PRELIMINARY PUBLICITY, THAT NONE OF THE INDIVIDUALS
CONCERNED ARE OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO THE U.S., AND THAT
IF THE IDEA DID NOT WORK OUT, IT POSED NO PROBLEM FOR US.
LUERS GAVE PEREZ CALDAS AN ILLUSTRATIVE LIST OF 18 URUGUAY-
AN COMMUNISTS IN JAIL. THERE WAS NO NOTE, AIDE MEMORIE OR

EVEN NON-PAPER. FINALLY, THE INFORMAL NATURE OF THE TALK WAS AGAIN EMPHASIZED AND PEREZ CALDAS WAS TOLD THAT IF HE DID NOT WISH TO PASS THIS PROPOSAL ON TO HIS GOVERNMENT WE WOULD UNDERSTAND.

3. THE LIST OF NAMES GIVEN TO PEREZ CALDAS WAS THE FOLLOWING:

JAIME PEREZ GERSCHUNI - SECRETARIAT - ACTING FIRST SECRETARY

LUIS ALBERTO IGUINI FERREIRA - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - POLITICAL ALLIANCES SECRETARY

JOSE LUIS MASSERA LERENA - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SOMETIME FIRST SECRETARY

GERARDO CUESTA VILA - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SOMETIME FIRST SECRETARY

VLADIMIR TURIANSKY WLADIMIRSKY - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - ALBERTO ALTESOR MEZQUITA

JORGE ERNESTO MAZZAROVICH SEVERI - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - SECRETARY GENERAL/COMMUNIST YOUTH SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 170677

JULIA AREVALO DE ROCHE - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ROSARIO PIETARROIA ZAPALA - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EDISON DE PASCUA DOYENART - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

LUIS ALBERTO TOURON LANDBURU - CENTRAL COMMITTEE - INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY

EDUARDO BLEIER HOROVITZ - CENTRAL COMMITTEE - SECRETARY OF ORGANIZATION

RAUL VIRGILIO REZZANO AGUIRRE - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

JOSE JORGE MARTINEZ FONTANA - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

JUAN JOSE ORMACHEA DE LEON - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

HUMBERTO SANTOS RODRIGUEZ CABRERA - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

RITA IBARBURU ELIZALDE DE SUAREZ - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

JUAN ANTONIO CACERES GARCIA - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

PEDRO H. TOLEDO PERLAS - CENTRAL COMMITTEE

4. THE AMBASSADOR AGREED TO SUBMIT THE IDEA BUT SAID HE COULD NOT PREDICT THE REACTION AS THE SITUATION WAS POLITICALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE CHILEAN EXCHANGE. HE NOTED HOWEVER THAT THE URUGUAYAN PRESS HAD REACTED FAVORABLY TO THAT EPISODE. ROVIRA VISITED WASHINGTON BRIEFLY AT THE END OF THAT WEEK ON HIS WAY BACK FROM GRENADA VIA NEW YORK AND PRESUMABLY CARRIED THE LIST BACK WITH HIM.

5. IN VIEW OF THE DISTORTED VERSION OF THIS MATTER NOW
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PAGE 04 STATE 170677

CIRCULATING IN MONTEVIDEO AND ITS UNFAVORABLE REFLECTION ON THE U.S., YOU SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH FOREIGN MINISTER TO CALL TO HIS ATTENTION THESE REPORTS. YOU SHOULD REVIEW THE POINTS IN PARA 2 ABOVE AND EXPRESS OUR DISMAY THAT THIS IDEA WE FLOATED IN GREAT CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN SO WIDELY CIRCULATED, AND THAT MATTER APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SO UNFAVORABLY TWISTED IN PRESENTATION. YOU SHOULD REITTEARATE FACT SUGGESTION WAS MERELY IDEA WE WERE FLOATING INFORMALLY -- NOT A PROPOSAL -- WHICH WE THOUGHT MIGHT HAVE CERTAIN APPEAL FOR GOU, BUT IF IT IS NOT ATTRACTIVE TO GOU, IT POSES NO PROBLEM FOR US. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD SPECIFICALLY ASK WHETHER GOU WISHES US TO DROP THE MATTER NOW. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, COMMUNISTS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE170677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ECA:RWZIMMERMANN:LK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840081-2320
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770732/aaaabblv.tel
Line Count: 149
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cdd0ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1786979
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS
TAGS: PINS, UY, US, UR, (PEREZ GERSCHUNI, JAIME), (IGUINI FERREIRA, LUIS ALBERTO)
To: MONTEVIDEO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cdd0ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009